



June 12, 2008

The Honorable Charles Rangel
The Honorable Jim McCrery
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Rangel and Ranking Member McCrery:

Invacare Corporation is writing to notify you of our strong support of the Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Acquisition Program Reform Act of 2008, a bill that would delay implementation of the DMEPOS bid program and require certain bidding process improvements and quality measures. We applaud your efforts to ensure that legitimate suppliers are not unfairly disqualified by mandating substantial improvements to the bidding process. Invacare also fully supports the decision to exclude complex rehabilitation wheelchairs and related accessories from the bidding program as this equipment is in effect unique to each beneficiary and is inappropriate for competitive bidding. We believe that it is important that GAO undertake a rigorous review of the program and its impact on suppliers and beneficiaries before further expansion can take place; we applaud the Committee's effort to ensure that this oversight occurs.

Invacare believes that this bill, the Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Acquisition Program Reform Act of 2008, is critical to ensure that the bid program, as implemented by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, does not impair necessary access to quality items and services and does not unfairly penalize DMEPOS suppliers participating in the bid process.

Invacare continues to support the repeal of the requirement that beneficiaries assume ownership of their oxygen equipment after 36 months, as mandated by the Deficit Reduction Act. Further, Invacare supports the exclusion of new oxygen technologies from any payment cuts.

Invacare's endorsement only applies to the payment reductions used in this legislation to offset the cost of the competitive bidding delay. We are not supportive of any additional cuts that may be levied on the DMEPOS industry at this time.

Invacare Corporation (NYSE: IVC) is the global leader in the research, development, manufacture, and distribution of the broadest product offering of innovative home medical equipment (HME) that promotes recovery and active lifestyles for seniors and people with disabilities. We sell a broad array of products to approximately 10,000 HME providers in the United States, including manual and power wheelchairs, other mobility aides such as canes and crutches; respiratory products such as oxygen concentrators, portable oxygen systems, and new oxygen technologies; nebulizer compressors and respiratory disposables; sleep therapy products;

home care beds; low air loss therapy products; bath safety products; patient transport equipment, and medical supplies. In turn, our HME provider customers interface directly with Medicare beneficiaries in their homes by furnishing and servicing these items. The majority of this equipment falls under the definition of “durable medical equipment” as defined under Part B of the Medicare Program.

We appreciate your leadership on this important legislation and look forward to working with you and your staff to secure its imminent passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald W. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "W".

Chairman and CEO